(c) whether no funds have been sanctioned for this purpose under the Ninth Five Year Plan and if so, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI S.R. BOMMAI) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) At the behest of the National Committee for celebration of Birth Centenary of Morarji Desai, the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare (Department of Indian System of Medicine and Homoeopathy) has decided to rename the National Institute of Yoga (NIY) as Morarji Desai National Institute of Yoga (MDNIY). This decision has also been confirmed by the General Body of the NIY in its meeting held on 15.4.1997, in terms of Section 12 of the Societies Registration Act 1860. The proposed MDNIY will run a Degree College of Yoga and Naturopathy. The Ministry of Health & Family Welfare are already working on a project Report on the proposed MDNIY so as to operationalise it during the Ninth Five Year Plan.

(c) A sum of Rs. 50.00 lakh has been provided for the proposed Institute under Plan during the first year of the Ninth Five Year Plan.

[English]

Malfunctioning of Mid-Day Meal Scheme

699. SHRI I.D. SWAMI : Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to refer to the reply given to Unstarred Question No. 3454 on March 14, 1997 regarding malfunctioning of Mid-day Meal Scheme and state:

(a) whether the information has since been collected;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the reaction of the Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI MUHI RAM SAIKIA): (a) to (c) According to the information since received from the Government of Orissa, the Public Accounts Committee of the Orissa Legislative Assembly (1996-97) in its 35th Report had discussed and raised certain points on the implementation of the Mid-day Meal Programme in the State. The matter is reported to be still under the detailed scrutiny and examination of the Orissa Government.

Regarding tenders invited by the Municipal Corporation of Delhi for the supply of "Monaco Type" salted biscuits, Government of National Capital Territory of Delhi has informed that the Corporation purchased the salted biscuits (Monaco type) as per the approved specifications.

Irrigation Capacity

700. SHRI SOUMYA RANJAN : Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) the total irrigation capacity created in Orissa during 1995-96 and 1996-97;

(b) whether the Government propose to introduce some new irrigation projects in the State to increase the irrigation capacity; and

(c) if so, the details thereof and the extent to which the irrigation capacity is likely to be increased during the next two years?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI SIS RAM OLA) : (a) The details of irrigation capacity likely to have been created in Orissa during the years 1995-96 and 1996-97 are as under:

Irrigation Potential in thousand hectares

Year	Major & Medium	Minor Irrigation	Total
1995-96 (Provisional)	44.14	83.16	127.30
1996-97 (Targets)	181.31	55.00	236.31
Total	225.45	138.16	363.61

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) Six major irrigation projects as well as four medium projects and four Extension, Renovation & Modernisation (ERM) projects have been proposed to be taken up during the IX Five year Plan (1997-2002). On completion of these projects additional irrigation potential of about 287.11 thousand hectares is likely to be created.

Canteen Services to Headquarter Employees

701. SHRI JANG BAHADUR SINGH PATEL : Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether ministries like Communications, Railways etc. give preference in the allotment of STD/ISD/PCO etc. booths and free railway passes to their employees after retirement;

(b) if so whether his Ministry also extends the facility of canteen services to the employees retiring from the Armed Forces Headquarters;

(c) if not, the reasons therefor; and

(d) the steps taken/proposed to be taken by his Ministry to extend the facility of canteen services to its employees on retirement?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (SHRI N.V.N SOMU) : (a) to (d) The Canteen Stores Department has been set up primarily for the benefit of Defence Service Personnel and extension of a portion of this facility to certain categories of Defence Civilian Personnel is incidental. As the conditions of Service of such Civilian Personnel are quite distinct from those of Defence Service Personnel, further extension of this benefit to the Civilian employees retiring from the Armed Forces Head Quarter is not considered necessary. Nor can it be justified in the light of tax concessions and the additional infrastructural expenditure involved. As such presently there is no proposal to extend these facilities to the retired Civilian Defence employees.

Shortage of Combat Aircraft

702. SHRI SRIBALLAV PANIGRAHI : Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Indian Air Force is facing a shortage of combat aircraft;

(b) if so, the steps taken to strengthen its air strike capability;

(c) whether the Government have or propose to negotiate Sukhoi (Russian) aircraft which is full of pitfalls and will not in any manner strengthen our Air Force fighter units; and

(d) if so, the details of the basic technical drawbacks in the aircraft and the corrective measure taken by the Government?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (SHRI N.V.N. SOMU) : (a) and (b) The strength of combat aircraft is to be viewed against the strike capability. Per se, the number may not indicate its capability. In order, to maintain and enhance the air strike capability of the IAF a number of steps have been taken to modernise/strengthen the IAF in view of the current as well as futuristic threat perceptions. These steps include mid life upgradation of some of the existing aircraft/ weapon systems, acquisition of additional air defence/air superiority aircraft and induction of multi-role state-of-the-art aircraft. Steps have also been taken to strengthen the electronic warfare armour of the IAF, as well as for provision of precision guided munitions to enhance accuracy and lethality of its strike power. Combat aircraft and attack helicopters in the IAF inventory are also being equipped with night attack capability to enable them to operate in both day and night conditions.

(c) Formal induction of SU-30 state-of-the-art multi-role aircraft into the IAF has already taken place. SU-30 aircraft has no pitfalls.

(d) The aircraft equipped with the latest avionics, is one of the best available in the world in its class.

Projects on NHs

703. SHRI VIJAY SANKESHWAR : Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the ongoing projects on National Highways like construction of byepass, doubling, construction of express highways etc., State-wise;

(b) the details of the projects that are pending incomplete from more than five years, State-wise;

(c) the reasons for the delay,

(d) the action taken by the Government in this regard;

(e) whether any amount sanctioned under these projects have been used/shifted for other places; and

(f) if so, the details thereof and action taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI T.G. VENKATRAMAN) : (a) State-wise details are given in the Statement-I attached.

(b) State-wise details are given in the Statement-II attached.

(c) Reasons for delay include delay/difficulty in land acquisition, delay in shifting of utilities which involves number of departments, some cases of incomplete investigations and delay in finalisation of designs, change of scope due to site conditions, floods, contractual problems, labour problems, legal disputes, stay orders granted by courts and paucity of funds etc.

(d) A number of steps have been taken to cut short delay in future projects. Some of these are:

(i) Feasibility study and detailed engineering reports are being prepared by Consultants so as to